

In reference to proceeding # 03-104, I concur with the ARRL that BPL will have an extremely negative impact on Amateur Radio. Specifically, BPL will make the Amateur Radio HF and VHF frequency spectrum useless. The level of interference in these bands will make amateur communication impossible. Because Amateur Radio members would not be able to contact one another, we will be unable to serve in emergency situations. For example, imagine how much worse 9/11 would have been if Amateur Radio operators could not assist the rescue teams in areas where phone (cellular and landline) communication was impossible.

Also, the power distribution systems were designed to distribute AC power. Shielding on power lines is often poor, and leakage is a common interference problem in the Amateur Radio Community. (Wherever there are poor connections, for example, AC energy leaks out causing great interference with radios). AC leakage is bad enough with 60 Hz power waves, so it would be much worse if the transmitted bandwidth is increased to 30MHz or more. In addition, the poor shielding between cables increases signal crosstalk, so the data transmission rate would be extremely limited when compared to other transmission methods such as landline telephone wires.

Finally, many studies have shown that cell phone use can cause skin cancer in the long run. These results come from studies that assume daily cell phone usage of a few hours at most! However, radio energy will constantly be emitted under the BPL proposal. Because people spent a good deal of their lives indoors, they will always be exposed to radio emissions / radiation. As such, the risk of developing skin cancer will be much greater.

In conclusion, BPL is a bad idea, and the FCC should not allow it to be legalized.